

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A system for use by a motor vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

a self-contained, portable monitoring apparatus comprising:

a computer for processing electronic signals;

a vehicle speed sensor operatively connected to said computer for detecting the instantaneous speed of a vehicle and for outputting an electronic speed signal corresponding to said instantaneous speed;

a display operatively connected to said computer for receiving and displaying said processed electronic signals from said computer; and

a data entry device operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data,

wherein a reward or punishment is administered by the motor vehicle owner or operator to the driver upon viewing said displayed electronic signals.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle speed sensor is a global positioning system receiver.

Claims 3 – 4 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle speed sensor is an accelerometer.

Claims 6-7 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 1, further comprising a battery power source.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 1, further comprising a vehicle mounting device connected to the system for securely locking the system to the vehicle and for preventing its removal by the driver or unauthorized person.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A system for use by a motor vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

- a monitoring device comprising:

- a computer for processing electronic signals;

- a vehicle location sensor operatively connected to said computer for detecting the instantaneous location of a vehicle and for outputting an electronic location signal corresponding to said instantaneous location, wherein the vehicle location sensor is a global positioning system receiver;

- a vehicle acceleration sensor operatively connected to said computer for detecting the instantaneous acceleration of the vehicle and for outputting an electronic acceleration signal corresponding to said instantaneous acceleration, wherein said vehicle acceleration sensor is an accelerometer;

- a display device operatively connected to said computer for receiving and displaying said processed electronic signals from said computer;

- a data entry device operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data; and

- a vehicle mounting device connected to the system for securely locking the system to the vehicle and for preventing its removal by the driver or unauthorized person,

- wherein a reward or a punishment is administered by the vehicle owner or operator to the driver upon viewing said displayed electronic signals.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 10, wherein said vehicle mounting device comprises:

an electromagnet; and

an electromagnetic sensor,

wherein said electromagnet and electromagnetic sensor are used for detecting whether the system has been removed from the vehicle and for outputting an electronic signal.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 10, wherein said vehicle mounting device comprises:

a lock, wherein said lock has one of a key hole and one or more combination dials; and

a cable attached to said lock, said cable including a fixed end and a free end and wherein said free end is threaded through a hole on the system and then connected to said lock for securely mounting the system to the vehicle.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method for use by a vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver and rewarding good driving habits comprising the steps of:

mounting a self-contained, portable vehicle monitoring device to a vehicle, wherein said self-contained, portable vehicle monitoring device includes a display;

sensing instantaneous speed signals associated with the movement of the vehicle;

comparing said speed signals against pre-established standards;

displaying said speed signals to the vehicle owner or operator; and

rewarding the driver with a prize or administering a punishment if said movement of the vehicle deviates from said pre-established standards.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

calculating peak speed and acceleration values corresponding to the movement of said vehicle using said instantaneous speed signals; and

comparing said calculated values against pre-established standards.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

electronically initiating said vehicle monitoring device;
converting said signals and calculated values to data codes;
comparing said data codes to data codes already stored in a computer memory; and
replacing data codes in memory with more recent data codes.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of securing the vehicle monitoring device to the vehicle with a cable and lock to prevent its detachment by unauthorized persons.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of securing the vehicle monitoring device to the vehicle with an electromagnet.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of detecting whether the vehicle monitoring device has been detached from the vehicle.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein said prize is money.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein said punishment is withholding use of the vehicle.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A system for use by a motor vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

a self-contained, portable monitoring apparatus comprising:

computer means for processing electronic signals;

sensor means operatively connected to said computer means for detecting movement of a vehicle;

display means operatively connected to said computer means for receiving and displaying said processed electronic signals from said computer means; and

data entry means operatively connected to said computer means for entering programming commands,

wherein a reward or punishment is administered by the motor vehicle owner or operator

upon viewing said displayed processed electronic signals from said computer means.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A system for use by a parent or guardian for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

a self-contained, portable monitoring apparatus comprising:

a computer for processing electronic signals;

a vehicle speed sensor operatively connected to said computer for detecting the instantaneous speed of a vehicle and for outputting an electronic speed signal corresponding to said instantaneous speed;

a display operatively connected to said computer for receiving and displaying said processed electronic signals from said computer; and

a data entry device operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data,

wherein a reward or punishment is administered by the parent or guardian of the inexperienced driver to the driver upon viewing said displayed electronic signals.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A system for use by a parent or guardian for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

a self-contained, portable monitoring apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a computer inside said housing for processing electronic signals;

a vehicle speed sensor operatively connected to said computer for detecting the instantaneous speed of a vehicle and for outputting an electronic speed signal corresponding to said instantaneous speed;

a display mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer for receiving and displaying said processed electronic signals from said computer; and

a data entry device mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data,

wherein a reward or a punishment is administered by the vehicle owner or operator to the driver upon viewing said displayed electronic signals.

Claim 24 (New): A system for use by a motor vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

- a vehicle speed sensor for detecting the instantaneous motion of a vehicle and for outputting an electronic signal corresponding to said instantaneous motion;

- a housing;

- a computer inside said housing and operatively connected to said vehicle speed sensor for processing said electronic signal;

- a display mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer;

- a data entry device mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data and displaying said electronic signal; and

wherein a reward or a punishment is administered by the vehicle owner or operator to the driver upon viewing said displayed electronic signal.

Claim 25 (New): The system of claim 24, wherein said vehicle speed sensor is a transducer attached to the vehicle.

Claim 26 (New): The vehicle speed sensor of claim 25, wherein said transducer transmits said electronic signal to the system by a wireless transmitter.

Claim 27 (New): The system of claim 24, wherein said vehicle speed sensor is an accelerometer.

Claim 28 (New): The vehicle speed sensor of claim 27, wherein said accelerometer is a transducer attached to the vehicle.

Claim 29 (New): The vehicle speed sensor of claim 28, wherein said acceleration transducer transmits said electronic signal to the system by a wireless transmitter.

Claim 30 (New): The system of claim 24, wherein the vehicle speed sensor transmits said electronic signal to the system by a wireless transmitter.

Claim 31 (New): A system for use by a motor vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver comprising:

- a vehicle speed sensor transducer attached to a vehicle for detecting the instantaneous motion of said vehicle and for outputting an electronic signal corresponding to said instantaneous motion;

- a housing;

- a computer inside said housing and operatively connected to said vehicle speed sensor for processing said electronic signal;

- a display mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer;

- a data entry device mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data and displaying said electronic signal; and

wherein a reward or a punishment is administered by the vehicle owner or operator to the driver upon viewing said displayed electronic signal.

Claim 32 (New): The system of claim 31, wherein said vehicle speed sensor is an accelerometer attached to said vehicle.

Claim 33 (New): A method for use by a vehicle owner or operator for monitoring the driving habits of an inexperienced driver and rewarding good driving habits comprising the steps of:

- mounting a monitoring device to a vehicle, the monitoring device having a housing, a computer inside said housing for processing electronic signals, a display mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer, a data entry device mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said computer for receiving programming commands and data and for displaying said electronic signals;

- connecting said monitoring device to a vehicle speed sensor attached to said vehicle, wherein said vehicle speed sensor outputs said electronic signals corresponding to an instantaneous motion of said vehicle;

- receiving said electronic signals;

- displaying said electronic signals to the vehicle owner or operator; and

rewarding the driver with a prize or administering a punishment if said electronic signal deviates from said pre-established standards.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:
calculating peak speed and acceleration values corresponding to the motion of said vehicle using said electronic signals; and
comparing said calculated values against pre-established standards.

Claim 35 (New): The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:
electronically initiating said vehicle monitoring device;
converting said signals and calculated values to data codes;
comparing said data codes to data codes already stored in a computer memory; and
replacing data codes in memory with more recent data codes.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of securing the vehicle monitoring device to said vehicle with a cable and lock to prevent its detachment by unauthorized persons.